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WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon announced the House Transportation-Treasury-HUD-Judiciary-D.C. House 2007 Appropriations bill includes \$1.5 million toward Phase I of the LA-1 Toll Road Project. The Committee on Appropriations passed the budget bill on Tuesday with a voice vote, sending it to the House floor for a full vote. In all, the bill includes \$3.47 million for transportation projects in the third congressional district, many of which will help with evacuation efforts and hurricane preparation.

"I am pleased the committee has made funding these important projects a priority in this year's transportation budget," said Melancon. **"I will continue working with my fellow members of Congress to make sure these commitments survive the budget process."**

Transportation projects in the third congressional district include:

- **LA 1 Toll Road Project - \$1.5 Million.** This allocation represents a portion of funds necessary to finish Phase I of the LA 1 Toll Road Project, which includes a new two-lane bridge over Bayou Lafourche in Leeville and 6.2 miles of elevated road between Leeville and Port Fourchon. Completing this project is critical to ensuring a safe evacuation route for citizens on the coast and provide stable and reliable infrastructure to the oil and gas industry that supports South Louisiana's economy.

- **Port of South Louisiana - \$300,000.** Coordinated improvements to the Port in conjunction with St. James, St. John and St. Charles Parish to keep the Port competitive and economically viable

- **Houma-Terrebonne Airport Taxiway and Runway - \$750,000.** These funds will go towards reconstructing taxiways and a new aircraft parking ramp.

• **Peters Road Extension, Plaquemines Parish - \$300,000.** This project will offer a more efficient evacuation route for the residents of Plaquemines Parish and West Jefferson. Also, it creates safer access to Lower Mississippi River refineries and port facilities as well as Alvin Callendar Naval Air Station.

• **LA 406 Widening, Plaquemines Parish - \$200,000.** This project would widen LA 406 between the Woodland Highway Bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway to LA 23 in Belle Chasse from two to four lanes in key locations and intersections. Project will provide better access to evacuation routes.

- **Multipurpose citizen's center, sidewalk and parking construction in Donaldsonville - \$150,000.** The citizen's center will also serve as a mid-term housing facility for hurricane evacuees.

• **St. Bernard Port, Harbor, and District Terminal - \$200,000.** The overall project is to prepare appropriate sites on the Lower Mississippi River in St. Bernard Parish for international maritime commerce

• **Improvements to downtown Loreauville \$70,000.**

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